

App. Serial No.: 10/017,458
Atty. Docket No.: 0011-051

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Final Office Action dated November 4, 2003, which has a 3-month period of response to a final office action set to expire February 5, 2003. This response is filed within a two-month period from the mailing date of the Office Action (January 4, 2003 being a Sunday). No extension of time is necessary.

Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 13, 23, and 24 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 13, 23, and 24 are rejected over prior art. Claims 1 and 23 are amended and Claim 25 is added. Claims 7 and 14-22 are canceled. Claims 3, 8-10, 13, and 24 remain as filed. Reconsideration is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that Claims 7 and 24 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Motoyama et al. (USPN 6,099,992) in view of Eden et al. (USPN 5,278,105). Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Motoyama et al. (USPN 6,099,992) in view of Chrysostomides et al. (USPN 6,441,469).

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, and 13:

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the limitations of Claim 7, which is indicated to contain allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Claim 7 is canceled. Therefore, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, and 13 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable at least as further limitations of Claim 1.

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Claims 23-24 and new Claim 25:

Claim 23 is amended herein to include the limitations of Claim 7, which is indicated to contain allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant believes that Claim 23 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 24 depends directly from Claim 23 and is allowable at least as a further limitation of Claim 23.

New Claim 25 is added and includes the limitations of both original Claims 23-24. Because Claim 24 is indicated to contain allowable subject matter by the Examiner, Applicant believes that new Claim 25 is now in condition for allowance.

Each remaining independent claim now includes subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the amendments made herein.

Additional Comments:

The amendments made herein to the Claims 1 and 23 are intended to obviate the rejections of those claims and any dependent claims, and to expedite the allowance of the present application. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13, 23 and 24 are not discussed herein in detail. However, Applicant does not acquiesce in the propriety of the rejections of those claims. Indeed, Applicant believes that each of original Claims 1-4, 6-10, 13, 23, and 24 contain inventive subject matter in their own right.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13, and 23-25 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner undertake any action other than allowance of Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13, and 23-25, or if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's attorney at (269) 279-8820.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/5/04

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via facsimile, on the date shown below, to: Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, at 703-872-9306

Date: 1/5/04

Larry E. Henneman, Jr.
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